Creation of Posts for CSS Section Officers

212. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government created about 1800 posts of CSS Section Officers recently to remove stagnation of CSS Assistants;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether 50 per cent of these posts were diverted to departmental examination candiates;

(d) if so, the detials thereof;

(e) whether on account of such diversion, the real objective of easing stagnation in Assistant grade has not been achieved, as a number of Assistants are continuing to stagnate in the same grade for over 10 years;

(f) whether the proposal would be reversed;

(g) if so, the detials thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) The Government in October, 2003 took several decisions to restructure the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) comprehensively. As a result of cadre restructuring of CSS, the then existing strength of Section Officer' Grade was enhanced to 3000, resulting in addition of over 600 posts. It was, *inter alia,* also decided:

(i) to discontinue the Direct recruitment to the post of Section Officer; and

(ii) to change the mode of recruitment for the post of Section Officer by way of 50% through Limited Departmental competitive Examination (LDCE) and 50% by seniority;

(e) to (h) With the comprehensive restructuring of CSS, the promotion prospects in various grades including those of Assistants have improved considerably.